18-23538-shl Doc 7542 Filed 03/31/20 Entered 03/31/20 23:06:22 Main Document

Hearing Date and Time: May 14, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. (Eastern Time) Response Deadline: May 5, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)

THIS OMNIBUS OBJECTION SEEKS TO RECLASSIFY, IN FULL OR IN PART, CERTAIN CLAIMS AS GENERAL UNSECURED CLAIMS. PARTIES RECEIVING THIS NOTICE OF THE DEBTORS' SIXTEENTH OMNIBUS OBJECTION TO CLAIMS SHOULD REVIEW THE OMNIBUS OBJECTION TO DETERMINE IF THEIR NAME(S) AND/OR CLAIM(S) ARE LOCATED IN THE OMNIBUS OBJECTION, AND/OR THE EXHIBIT ATTACHED THERETO, TO DETERMINE WHETHER THIS OMNIBUS OBJECTION AFFECTS THEIR CLAIM(S).

> IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT DEBTORS' COUNSEL, BRODEN N. SANFORD, ESQ., AT (212) 310-8737.

WEIL, GOTSHAL & MANGES LLP 767 Fifth Avenue New York, New York 10153 Telephone: (212) 310-8000 Facsimile: (212) 310-8007 Ray C. Schrock, P.C. Jacqueline Marcus Garrett A. Fail Sunny Singh

Attorneys for Debtors and Debtors in Possession

# UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re Chapter 11

**SEARS HOLDINGS CORPORATION**, et al., : Case No. 18-23538 (RDD)

Debtors.<sup>1</sup> (Jointly Administered)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are as follows: Sears Holdings Corporation (0798); Kmart Holding Corporation (3116); Kmart Operations LLC (6546); Sears Operations LLC (4331); Sears, Roebuck and Co. (0680); ServiceLive Inc. (6774); SHC Licensed Business LLC (3718); A&E Factory Service, LLC (6695); A&E Home Delivery, LLC (0205); A&E Lawn & Garden, LLC (5028); A&E Signature Service, LLC (0204); FBA Holdings Inc. (6537); Innovel Solutions, Inc. (7180); Kmart Corporation (9500); MaxServ, Inc. (7626); Private Brands, Ltd. (4022); Sears Development Co. (6028); Sears Holdings Management Corporation (2148); Sears Home & Business Franchises, Inc. (6742); Sears Home Improvement Products, Inc. (8591); Sears Insurance Services, L.L.C. (7182); Sears Procurement Services, Inc. (2859); Sears Protection Company (1250); Sears Protection Company (PR) Inc. (4861); Sears Roebuck Acceptance Corp. (0535); SR – Rover de Puerto Rico, LLC (f/k/a Sears, Roebuck de Puerto Rico, Inc.) (3626); SYW Relay LLC (1870); Wally Labs LLC (None); SHC Promotions LLC (9626); Big Beaver of Florida Development, LLC (None); California Builder Appliances, Inc. (6327); Florida Builder Appliances, Inc. (9133); KBL Holding Inc. (1295); KLC, Inc. (0839); Kmart of Michigan, Inc. (1696); Kmart of Washington LLC (8898); Kmart Stores of Illinois LLC (8897); Kmart Stores of Texas LLC (8915); MyGofer LLC (5531); Rover Brands Business Unit, LLC (f/k/a Sears Brands Business Unit Corporation) (4658); Sears Holdings Publishing Company, LLC. (5554); Sears Protection Company (Florida), L.L.C. (4239); SHC Desert Springs, LLC (None); SOE, Inc. (9616); StarWest, LLC (5379); STI Merchandising, Inc. (0188); Troy Coolidge No. 13, LLC (None); BlueLight.com, Inc. (7034); Sears Brands, L.L.C. (4664); Sears Buying Services, Inc. (6533); Kmart.com LLC (9022); Sears Brands Management Corporation (5365); and SRe Holding Corporation (4816). The location of the Debtors' corporate headquarters is 3333 Beverly Road, Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60179.

#### NOTICE OF HEARING ON DEBTORS' SIXTEENTH OMNIBUS OBJECTION TO CLAIMS (RECLASSIFICATION)

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that, on March 31, 2020, Sears Holdings Corporation and certain of its affiliates, as debtors and debtors in possession in the above-captioned chapter 11 cases (collectively, the "**Debtors**") filed the *Debtors' Sixteenth Omnibus Objection to Claims (Reclassification)* (the "**Objection**") with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York (the "**Bankruptcy Court**").

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that the Objection requests that the Bankruptcy Court reclassify in its entirety one or more claims (the "Claims")<sup>2</sup> listed on <u>Exhibit A</u> annexed to this Notice, on the ground(s) that such Claim(s) does not satisfy the requirements for administrative expense priority under section 503(b) of the Bankruptcy Code.

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that the *Court-Ordered Claims Hearing Procedures* (the "Claims Hearing Procedures"), annexed to this Notice as <u>Exhibit B</u>, shall apply and govern the Objection. The Claims Hearing Procedures provide for certain mandatory actions by claimants (each, a "Claimant" and collectively, the "Claimants") within certain time periods. Therefore, please review the Claims Hearing Procedures carefully. Failure to comply with the Claims Hearing Procedures may result in the reclassification of a Claim without further notice to the applicable Claimant(s).

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that, if Claimant does NOT oppose the reclassification of its applicable Claim(s), then Claimant does NOT need to file a written response (the "**Response**") to the Objection and Claimant does NOT need to appear at the Hearing (as defined herein).

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that, if Claimant DOES oppose the reclassification of its applicable Claim(s), then Claimant MUST file with the Bankruptcy Court <u>and</u> serve on the parties listed below a Response to the Objection, so as to be filed and received by no later than **May 5, 2019, at 4:00 p.m.** (**Prevailing Eastern Time**) (the "**Response Deadline**").

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that Response(s) to the Objection, if any, must contain, at a minimum, the following: (i) a caption setting forth the name of the Bankruptcy Court, the names of the Debtors, the case number and the title of the Objection to which the Response is directed; (ii) the name of the Claimant and description of the basis for the amount of the Claim; (iii) a concise statement setting forth the reasons why the Claim should not be reclassified for the reasons set forth in the Objection, including, but not limited to, the specific factual and legal bases upon which Claimant will rely in opposing the Objection; (iv) all documentation or other evidence of the Claim, to the extent not included with the a Claim previously filed with the Bankruptcy Court, upon which Claimant will rely in opposing the Objection; (v) the address(es) to which the Debtors must return any reply to Claimant's Response, if different from that presented in the applicable Claim; and (vi) the name, address, and telephone number of the person (which may be Claimant or Claimant's designated legal representative) possessing ultimate authority to reconcile, settle, or otherwise resolve the Claim on Claimant's behalf.

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that the Bankruptcy Court will consider a Response only if the Response is timely filed, served, and received. A Response will be deemed timely

WEIL:\97432139\4\73217.0004

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> For purposes of the Objection, any reference to Claims also include any ballots submitted in connection with the Administrative Expense Claims Consent Program (as defined in the *Order (I) Confirming Modified Second Amended Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Sears Holdings Corporation and Its Affiliated Debtors and (II) Granting Related Relief* (ECF No. 5370).

filed, served, and received only if the original Response is <u>actually received</u> on or before the Response Deadline by (i) the chambers of the Honorable Robert D. Drain, United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York, 300 Quarropas Street, White Plains, New York 10601; (ii) Weil, Gotshal, & Manges LLP, 767 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10153 (Attn: Ray C. Schrock, Esq., Jacqueline Marcus, Esq., Garrett A. Fail, Esq., and Sunny Singh, Esq.), attorneys for the Debtors; and (iii) Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, One Bryant Park, New York, New York 10036 (Attn: Philip C. Dublin, Esq., Ira Dizengoff, Esq., and Sara Lynne Brauner, Esq.), attorneys for the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors appointed in these cases.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that, except as otherwise permitted under the Claims Hearing Procedures, a hearing to consider the Objection will be held before the Honorable Robert D. Drain, United States Bankruptcy Judge, at the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York, 300 Quarropas Street, White Plains, New York 10601, on May 14, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. (Prevailing Eastern Time) (the "Hearing"). If Claimant files a Response to the Objection, Claimant should plan to appear at the Hearing. The Debtors, however, reserve the right to continue the Hearing on the Objection with respect to the Claim(s) that are the subject of such Response.

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that, if the Bankruptcy Court does NOT reclassify the Claims listed on **Exhibit A**, the Debtors retain the right to object on other grounds to the Claim(s) at a later date. Claimant will receive a separate notice of any such objection(s).

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that Claimant may participate in the Hearing telephonically, provided Claimant complies with the Bankruptcy Court's instructions (including, without limitation, providing prior written notice to counsel for the Debtors and any statutory committee), which can be found on the Bankruptcy Court's website at <a href="www.nysb.uscourts.gov">www.nysb.uscourts.gov</a>.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that, if any Claimant wishes to view the complete Objection, such Claimant can do so for free at <a href="https://restructuring.primeclerk.com/sears">https://restructuring.primeclerk.com/sears</a>. Claimants should not contact the Clerk of the Bankruptcy Court to discuss the merits of their Claims(s).

Dated: March 31, 2020

New York, New York

/s/ Garrett A. Fail

Ray C. Schrock, P.C.
Jacqueline Marcus
Garrett A. Fail
Sunny Singh
WEIL, GOTSHAL & MANGES LLP
767 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10153

Telephone: (212) 310-8000 Facsimile: (212) 310-8007

Attorneys for Debtors and Debtors in Possession 18-23538-shl Doc 7542 Filed 03/31/20 Entered 03/31/20 23:06:22 Main Document Pg 4 of 23

# Exhibit A

18-23538-shl Doc 7542 Filed 03/31/20 Entered 03/31/20 23:06:22 Main Document Pg 5 of 23

Debtors' Sixteenth Omnibus Objection Exhibit A - Reclassified Landlord Claims In re: Sears Holdings Corporation, et al. Case No. 18-23538 (RDD)

Schedule of Reclassified Landlord Claims								
Ref	Affected	Affected	Administrative	Amount Reclassified as				
# Name of Claimant	Claim No.	Ballot No.	Priority Claim	General Unsecured Claim	Reason for Reclassification			
Coastland Center, L.P.	17111	182353801018488	\$1,148,250.00	\$1,148,250.00	The Claim refers to lease rejection damages, and thus is not an assertible Administrative Expense Claim			
2. Cumberland Mall, LLC	17345	182353801018495	\$1,778,437.00	\$1,778,437.00	The Claim refers to lease rejection damages, and thus is not an assertible Administrative Expense Claim			
3. Steel 1111, LLC	16652	182353801018473	\$2,628,600.00	\$2,628,600.00	This Claim refers to repairs and maintenance expenses for pre- petition conditions; as such, the Claim is not an assertible Administrative Expense Claim			
4. Via Port New York LLC	16407	182353801018140	\$500,411.73	\$500,411.73	The Claim refers to pre-petition expenses, and thus is not an assertible Administrative Expense Claim			

# Exhibit B

**Claims Hearing Procedures** 

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COU	RT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK	_

In re : Chapter 11 : SEARS HOLDINGS CORPORATION, et al., : Case No. 18-23538 (RDD) : United the control of the

#### **COURT-ORDERED CLAIMS HEARING PROCEDURES**

The claims hearing procedures (the "Claims Hearing Procedures") described herein have been ordered by the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York (the "Bankruptcy Court") to apply to the Chapter 11 cases of the Sears Holdings Corporation and its affiliated debtors (collectively, the "Debtors").

#### **Claims Hearing Procedures**

- 1. Pursuant to the Amended Order Implementing Certain Notice and Case Management Procedures, entered on November 1, 2018 (ECF No. 405), the Bankruptcy Court established periodic omnibus hearings (the "Omnibus Hearings") in these Chapter 11 cases. The Debtors shall schedule the return date for claims objections, omnibus or otherwise, for hearing at Omnibus Hearings or other hearings the Debtors may schedule with the Bankruptcy Court.
- 2. The Bankruptcy Court may enter an order at the scheduled hearing sustaining an objection to proofs of claim (each, a "**Proof of Claim**") with respect to which no response (a "**Response**")<sup>2</sup> is properly filed and served.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are as follows: Sears Holdings Corporation (0798); Kmart Holding Corporation (3116); Kmart Operations LLC (6546); Sears Operations LLC (4331); Sears, Roebuck and Co. (0680); ServiceLive Inc. (6774); SHC Licensed Business LLC (3718); A&E Factory Service, LLC (6695); A&E Home Delivery, LLC (0205); A&E Lawn & Garden, LLC (5028); A&E Signature Service, LLC (0204); FBA Holdings Inc. (6537); Innovel Solutions, Inc. (7180); Kmart Corporation (9500); MaxServ, Inc. (7626); Private Brands, Ltd. (4022); Sears Development Co. (6028); Sears Holdings Management Corporation (2148); Sears Home & Business Franchises, Inc. (6742); Sears Home Improvement Products, Inc. (8591); Sears Insurance Services, L.L.C. (7182); Sears Procurement Services, Inc. (2859); Sears Protection Company (1250); Sears Protection Company (PR) Inc. (4861); Sears Roebuck Acceptance Corp. (0535); SR – Rover de Puerto Rico, LLC (f/k/a Sears, Roebuck de Puerto Rico, Inc.) (3626); SYW Relay LLC (1870); Wally Labs LLC (None); SHC Promotions LLC (9626); Big Beaver of Florida Development, LLC (None); California Builder Appliances, Inc. (6327); Florida Builder Appliances, Inc. (9133); KBL Holding Inc. (1295); KLC, Inc. (0839); Kmart of Michigan, Inc. (1696); Kmart of Washington LLC (8898); Kmart Stores of Illinois LLC (8897); Kmart Stores of Texas LLC (8915); MyGofer LLC (5531); Rover Brands Business Unit, LLC (f/k/a Sears Brands Business Unit Corporation) (4658); Sears Holdings Publishing Company, LLC. (5554); Sears Protection Company (Florida), L.L.C. (4239); SHC Desert Springs, LLC (None); SOE, Inc. (9616); StarWest, LLC (5379); STI Merchandising, Inc. (0188); Troy Coolidge No. 13, LLC (None); BlueLight.com, Inc. (7034); Sears Brands, L.L.C. (4664); Sears Buying Services, Inc. (6533); Kmart.com LLC (9022); Sears Brands Management Corporation (5365); and SRe Holding Corporation (4816). The location of the Debtors' corporate headquarters is 3333 Beverly Road, Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60179.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Any information submitted in connection with a Claim shall be part of the record with respect to the relevant Claim, and any such information already submitted need not be resubmitted in connection with the Claims Hearing Procedures.

- 3. The hearing to consider an objection to Proofs of Claim as to which a Response is properly filed and served (each, a "Contested Claim") shall be set for a contested hearing (a "Claims Hearing") to be scheduled by the Debtors, in their sole discretion, as set forth herein. The Debtors may request that the Bankruptcy Court schedule Claims Hearings on the date and/or time of the Omnibus Hearings or at another date and time.
- 4. The Debtors shall schedule a Claims Hearing for a Contested Claim as follows:
  - (i) For a non-evidentiary hearing to address whether the Contested Claim has failed to state a claim against the Debtors which can be allowed and should be dismissed pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 7012 (a "Sufficiency Hearing"), unless the Debtors serve the applicable claimant (the "Claimant") with a Notice of Merits Hearing (as defined herein), the Sufficiency Hearing shall go forward at the return date set in accordance with paragraph 1 of these Claims Hearing Procedures. The legal standard of review that will be applied by the Bankruptcy Court at a Sufficiency Hearing will be equivalent to the standard applied by the Bankruptcy Court upon a motion to dismiss for failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.
  - (ii) For an evidentiary hearing on the merits of a Contested Claim (a "Merits Hearing"), the Debtors may, in their sole discretion, serve upon the relevant Claimant, by email or overnight delivery, with a copy to the Creditors' Committee, and file with the Bankruptcy Court, a notice substantially in the form attached to the *Order Approving (I) Claims Objection Procedures, (II) Claims Settlement Procedures, and (III) Claims Hearing Procedures* (ECF No. 3014) as <a href="Exhibit 2">Exhibit 2</a> (a "Notice of Merits Hearing"), at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to the date of such Merits Hearing. The rules and procedures applicable to such Merits Hearing will be set forth in any scheduling order issued by the Bankruptcy Court in connection therewith.
- 5. Discovery with respect to a Contested Claim will not be permitted until either: (i) the Bankruptcy Court has held a Sufficiency Hearing and determined that the Contested Claim states a claim that could be allowed and should not be dismissed pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 7012; or (ii) the Debtors have served on the relevant Claimant a Notice of Merits Hearing with respect to the Contested Claim.
- 6. The Debtors may file and serve a reply (a "**Reply**") to a Response no later than 4:00 p.m. (Prevailing Eastern Time) on the day that is at least two (2) business days prior to the date of the applicable hearing.
- 7. The Debtors, in their sole discretion, are authorized to further adjourn a hearing scheduled in accordance herewith at any time by providing notice to the Bankruptcy Court and the Claimant.
- 8. **Sanctions**. The Bankruptcy Court will consider appropriate sanctions, including allowance or disallowance of the Contested Claim, if either party does not follow the Claims Hearing Procedures.

BY ORDER OF THE BANKRUPTCY COURT

18-23538-shl Doc 7542 Filed 03/31/20 Entered 03/31/20 23:06:22 Main Document Pa 9 of 23

Hearing Date and Time: May 14, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. (Eastern Time) Response Deadline: May 5, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)

WEIL, GOTSHAL & MANGES LLP

767 Fifth Avenue

New York, New York 10153
Telephone: (212) 310-8000
Facsimile: (212) 310-8007
Ray C. Schrock, P.C.
Jacqueline Marcus
Garrett A. Fail
Sunny Singh

Attorneys for Debtors and Debtors in Possession

# UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

------Х

In re : Chapter 11

SEARS HOLDINGS CORPORATION, et al., : Case No. 18-23538 (RDD)

:

Debtors.<sup>1</sup> : (Jointly Administered)

-----X

# DEBTORS' SIXTEENTH OMNIBUS OBJECTION TO CLAIMS (RECLASSIFICATION)

\_

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are as follows: Sears Holdings Corporation (0798); Kmart Holding Corporation (3116); Kmart Operations LLC (6546); Sears Operations LLC (4331); Sears, Roebuck and Co. (0680); ServiceLive Inc. (6774); SHC Licensed Business LLC (3718); A&E Factory Service, LLC (6695); A&E Home Delivery, LLC (0205); A&E Lawn & Garden, LLC (5028); A&E Signature Service, LLC (0204); FBA Holdings Inc. (6537); Innovel Solutions, Inc. (7180); Kmart Corporation (9500); MaxServ, Inc. (7626); Private Brands, Ltd. (4022); Sears Development Co. (6028); Sears Holdings Management Corporation (2148); Sears Home & Business Franchises, Inc. (6742); Sears Home Improvement Products, Inc. (8591); Sears Insurance Services, L.L.C. (7182); Sears Procurement Services, Inc. (2859); Sears Protection Company (1250); Sears Protection Company (PR) Inc. (4861); Sears Roebuck Acceptance Corp. (0535); SR – Rover de Puerto Rico, LLC (f/k/a Sears, Roebuck de Puerto Rico, Inc.) (3626); SYW Relay LLC (1870); Wally Labs LLC (None); SHC Promotions LLC (9626); Big Beaver of Florida Development, LLC (None); California Builder Appliances, Inc. (6327); Florida Builder Appliances, Inc. (9133); KBL Holding Inc. (1295); KLC, Inc. (0839); Kmart of Michigan, Inc. (1696); Kmart of Washington LLC (8898); Kmart Stores of Illinois LLC (8897); Kmart Stores of Texas LLC (8915); MyGofer LLC (5531); Rover Brands Business Unit, LLC (f/k/a Sears Brands Business Unit Corporation) (4658); Sears Holdings Publishing Company, LLC. (5554); Sears Protection Company (Florida), L.L.C. (4239); SHC Desert Springs, LLC (None); SOE, Inc. (9616); StarWest, LLC (5379); STI Merchandising, Inc. (0188); Troy Coolidge No. 13, LLC (None); BlueLight.com, Inc. (7034); Sears Brands, L.L.C. (4664); Sears Buying Services, Inc. (6533); Kmart.com LLC (9022); Sears Brands Management Corporation (5365); and SRe Holding Corporation (4816). The location of the Debtors' corporate headquarters is 3333 Beverly Road, Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60179.

THIS OMNIBUS OBJECTION SEEKS TO RECLASSIFY, IN FULL OR IN PART, CERTAIN PORTIONS CLAIMS AS GENERAL UNSECURED CLAIMS. CLAIMANTS RECEIVING THIS OMNIBUS OBJECTION SHOULD LOCATE THEIR NAMES AND CLAIMS ON THE EXHIBIT ATTACHED TO THIS OMNIBUS OBJECTION.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE DEBTORS' COUNSEL, BRODEN N. SANFORD, ESQ., AT (212) 310-8737.

TO THE HONORABLE ROBERT D. DRAIN, UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE:

Sears Holdings Corporation and its debtor affiliates, as debtors and debtors in possession in the above-captioned chapter 11 cases (collectively, the "**Debtors**"), respectfully represent as follows in support of this omnibus objection (the "**Objection**"):

#### **Background**

- 1. Beginning on October 15, 2018 and continuing thereafter, each of the Debtors commenced with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York (the "Bankruptcy Court") a voluntary case under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code"). The Debtors are authorized to continue to operate their business and manage their properties as debtors in possession pursuant to sections 1107(a) and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 2. On October 24, 2018, the United States Trustee for Region 2 appointed an official committee of unsecured creditors. No trustee or examiner has been appointed in these chapter 11 cases.
- 3. The Debtors' chapter 11 cases are being jointly administered for procedural purposes only pursuant to Rule 1015(b) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules").
- 4. On February 8, 2019, the Bankruptcy Court entered the Order (I) Approving the Asset Purchase Agreement Among Sellers and Buyer, (II) Authorizing the Sale of Certain of the Debtors' Assets Free and Clear of Liens, Claims, Interests and Encumbrances, (III) Authorizing the Assumption and Assignment of Certain Executory Contracts, and Leases in Connection Therewith and (IV) Granting

2

WEIL:\97432139\4\73217.0004

Related Relief (ECF No. 2507), pursuant to which the Debtors sold substantially all their assets to Transform Holdco LLC.

- 5. On September 13, 2019, the Debtors filed the *Modified Second Amended Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Sears Holdings Corporation and Its Affiliated Debtors* (the "**Plan**"). On October 15, 2019, the Bankruptcy Court confirmed the Plan (ECF No. 5370) (the "**Confirmation Order**").
- 6. Additional information regarding the Debtors' business, capital structure, and the Plan is set forth in the *Disclosure Statement for Modified Second Amended Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Sears Holdings Corporation and Its Affiliated Debtors* (ECF No. 4478).

#### **Jurisdiction**

7. This Bankruptcy Court has jurisdiction to consider this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334. This is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b). Venue is proper before this Bankruptcy Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.

#### **Relief Requested**

8. The Debtors file this Objection pursuant to section 502 of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rule 3007, seeking entry of an order reclassifying portions of certain claims<sup>3</sup> asserting administrative expense priority pursuant to section 503(b)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code (the "Landlord Claims"), as listed on Exhibit A annexed hereto, as General Unsecured Claims. The Landlord Claims do not satisfy the requirements for administrative expense priority under section 503(b)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code because they are claims of landlords of nonresidential real property previously leased by the Debtors for (i) damages, (ii) repair expenses, and/or (iii) cleanup expenses resulting from the rejection of unexpired leases in these chapter 11 cases, which are properly treated as General Unsecured Claims pursuant to section 502(g)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code. 11 U.S.C. § 502(g)(1). Further, the case law

3

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein shall have the respective meanings ascribed to such terms in the Plan.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> For purposes of this Objection, any reference to Claims also include any ballots submitted in connection with the Administrative Expense Claims Consent Program (as defined in the Confirmation Order).

reaffirms that general unsecured status is the proper classification for each of the three types of Landlord Claims asserted.

9. The Debtors, therefore, request that the Landlord Claims are reclassified as General Unsecured Claims accordingly. A proposed form of order granting the relief requested herein is annexed hereto as **Exhibit B** (the "**Proposed Order**"). This Objection does not constitute an admission or acknowledgement by the Debtors that any of the Landlord Claims should be allowed.

#### The Landlord Claims Should Be Reclassified as General Unsecured Claims

- 10. A filed proof of claim is "deemed allowed, unless a party in interest . . . objects." 11 U.S.C. § 502(a). Upon an objection, the claimant has the burden to demonstrate the validity of the claim. See Rozier v. Rescap Borrower Claims Tr. (In re Residential Capital, LLC), 15 Civ. 3248, 2016 WL, 796860, at \*9 (S.D.N.Y. 2016); In re Arcapita Bank B.S.C.(c), No. 12–11076 (SHL), 2013 WL 6141616, at \*1 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Nov. 21, 2013), aff'd sub nom. In re Arcapita Bank B.S.C.(c), 508 B.R. 814, 817 (S.D.N.Y. 2014); In re Motors Liquidation Co., No. 09-50026, 2012 WL 1886755, at \*3 (S.D.N.Y. May 12, 2012); In re Oneida, Ltd., 400 B.R. 384, 389 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2009), aff'd, No. 09 Civ. 2229 (DC), 2010 WL 234827, at \*5 (S.D.N.Y. Jan. 22, 2010); In re Adelphia Commc'ns Corp., Ch. 11 Case No. 02-41729, 2007 Bankr. LEXIS 660, at \*15 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Feb. 20, 2007); In re Rockefeller Ctr. Props., 272 B.R. 524, 539 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2000). Moreover, section 502(b)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code provides, in relevant part, that a claim may not be allowed if "such claim is unenforceable against the debtor and property of the debtor, under any agreement or applicable law." 11 U.S.C. § 502(b)(1).
- 11. In addition, a Claimant asserting an administrative expense claim priority bears the burden of establishing their entitlement to such priority. *See, e.g., In re Bethlehem Steel Corp.*, 479 F.3d 167, 172 (2d Cir. 2007) ("The burden of proving entitlement to priority payment as an administrative expense . . . rests with the party requesting it."); *In re Drexel Burnham Lambert Grp. Inc.*, 134 B.R. 482, 489 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1991) ("The burden of establishing entitlement to priority rests with the claimant and should only be granted under extraordinary circumstances, to wit, when the parties seeking priority

WEIL:\97432139\4\73217.0004

have sustained their burden of demonstrating that their services are actual and necessary to preserve the estate.") (quotation omitted).

The Landlord Claims fail to meet the burden of demonstrating that they are entitled to administrative status. As set forth on Exhibit A, each Landlord Claim relates to an unexpired nonresidential lease that was rejected by the Debtors pursuant to section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code in these chapter 11 cases. Under section 365(d)(4) of the Bankruptcy Code, an unexpired lease of nonresidential real property is automatically deemed rejected if a debtor-lessee does not assume such lease within 120 days of its bankruptcy filing, or within 210 days with court approval. See 11 U.S.C. § 365(d)(4). The deadline by which the Debtors were required to assume or reject their leases was May 13, 2019 (the "365(d)(4) Deadline"). See Order Extending Time to Assume or Reject Unexpired Leases and Subleases of Nonresidential Real Property (ECF No. 776). The leases underlying the Landlord Claims were either formally rejected or deemed rejected by the 365(d)(4) Deadline. The Debtors have reviewed the Landlord Claims and determined, for the reasons set forth below, that each of the Landlord Claims improperly asserts that such Claim is entitled to administrative expense priority.

#### (i) Rejection Damage Claims are Not Entitled to Administrative Status

As set forth on Exhibit A, several Landlord Claims assert an administrative expense claim for rejection damages. However, the case law is clear that pursuant to section 502(g)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code, the entities asserting these lease rejection claims are treated as prepetition creditors. See, e.g., In re Enron Corp., 354 B.R. 652, 655 (S.D.N.Y. 2006) ("It is clear that this version of Section 502(g) 'cause[d] a rejection damage claim to be classified as a pre-bankruptcy claim,' such that the other party to the contract has a claim equal to those of other creditors having unsecured claims against the debtor at the time the petition was filed."); O.P.M. Leasing Services, Inc., 79 B.R. 161, 164 (S.D.N.Y. 1987) ("In the Court's view, the statutory framework provides for the allowance of a claim arising from the rejection of an unexpired lease in that amount which would be recoverable by the non-breaching party as of the time the petition was filed.").

5

#### (ii) Repair Expense Claims are Not Entitled to Administrative Status

14. Several of the Landlord Claims request administrative expense status for repairs of conditions that arose prepetition. Bankruptcy Courts have consistently held that such claims are properly treated as general unsecured claims. See, e.g., In re National Refractories & Minerals Corp., 297 B.R. 614, 619-621 (Bankr. N.D. Cal. 2003) (holding that administrative expense status does not apply to repair costs that arose prepetition: "[W]hether [landlord] Centerpoint is entitled to an administrative claim for the Repair Costs depends on when the damage occurred. . . . once the damage to the Leased Premises was done, the Debtors' obligation to repair it became fixed. If the Lease had been terminated just prior to the filing of the bankruptcy petition, the Debtor's liability for the Repair Costs would have been no different than those asserted in the Motion."); In re Ames Dept. Stores, Inc., 306 B.R. 43, 60-62 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2004) (quoting with approval the Court's analysis in *National Refractories & Mineral Corp.*); *In re BH S* & B Holdings LLC, 426 B.R. 478, 484-485 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2010) (quoting with approval the Court's analysis in National Refractories & Mineral Corp.); In re Designer Doors, Inc., 389 B.R. 832, 836-837 (Bankr. D. Ariz. 2008) (holding that claim arising from debtor breaching its obligation to keep the property free of liens was subject to general unsecured treatment because "[w]here the debtor's breach of its obligation first arises prepetition, it is not an obligation that arises 'from and after the order for relief' so the Landlord is not entitled to administrative expense under § 365(d)(3)").

#### (iii) Cleanup Expense Claims are Not Entitled to Administrative Status

15. Several Landlord Claims request administrative expense treatment for expenses incurred cleaning up and disposing of property abandoned on the rejected premises. Section 503(b) of the Bankruptcy Code provides for administrative expense treatment for "the actual, necessary costs and expenses of preserving the estate . . . for services rendered after the commencement of the case." 11 U.S.C. § 503(b). Bankruptcy Courts have clarified that, pursuant to section 503(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, two elements must be satisfied for an expense to be given administrative status: "First, the expense must arise 'out of a transaction between the creditor and the bankrupt's trustee or debtor-in-possession';

6

WEIL:\97432139\4\73217.0004

second, the creditor's consideration for the expense must be 'both supplied to and beneficial to the debtor in possession in the operation of the business." *Ames*, 306 B.R. at 55 (quoting *Trustees of the Amalgamated Insurance Fund v. McFarlin's, Inc.*, 789 F.2d 98, 101 (2d Cir. 1986); *see also In re Enron Corp.*, 279 B.R. 79, 85 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y 2002).

- abandoned property do not satisfy this two-part test for administrative expense status. *See Ames*, 306 B.R. at 5 ("[Debtor] Ames' failure to comply with its contractual duties to clean up the premises upon the termination of the lease, when such took place after rejection, gave rise to a *pre-petition* claim for breach of the lease, and not a post-petition breach"); *In re Unidigital, Inc.*, 262 B.R. 283, 289 (Bankr. D. Del. 2001) ("While it may seem inequitable to 'saddle' [the landlord] SNY with the cost of cleaning up the Debtors' mess, absent a benefit to the estate, no priority claim is allowable. . . . the cost of cleaning the landlord's premises does not benefit the estate here. Rather it only benefits SNY.").
- 17. As each of the Landlord Claims does not satisfy the requirements for administrative expense priority under section 503(b)(7), the Debtors seek entry of the Proposed Order reclassifying the Landlord Claims to General Unsecured Claims (to the extent reflected on **Exhibit A**).

#### **Reservation of Rights**

18. The Debtors hereby reserve the right to object in the future to any of the Landlord Claims subject to this Objection on any ground, and to amend, modify, and/or supplement this Objection to the extent an objection to a Claim is not granted. A separate notice and hearing will be scheduled for any such objection.

#### **Notice**

19. Notice of this Objection has been provided in accordance with the procedures set forth in the *Amended Order Implementing Certain Notice and Case Management Procedures*, entered on November 1, 2018 (ECF No. 405) (the "**Amended Case Management Order**"). The Debtors respectfully submit that no further notice is required.

18-23538-shl Doc 7542 Filed 03/31/20 Entered 03/31/20 23:06:22 Main Document Pg 16 of 23

20. No previous request for the relief sought herein has been made by the Debtors to this or any other Court.

WHEREFORE the Debtors respectfully request entry of the Proposed Order granting the relief requested herein and such other and further relief as is just.

Dated: March 31, 2020

New York, New York

/s/ Garrett A. Fail

Ray C. Schrock, P.C.
Jacqueline Marcus
Garrett A. Fail
Sunny Singh
WEIL, GOTSHAL & MANGES LLP
767 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10153
Talanhana: (212) 310 8000

Telephone: (212) 310-8000 Facsimile: (212) 310-8007

Attorneys for Debtors and Debtors in Possession

# Exhibit A

**Schedule of Landlord Claims** 

18-23538-shl Doc 7542 Filed 03/31/20 Entered 03/31/20 23:06:22 Main Document Pg 18 of 23

Debtors' Sixteenth Omnibus Objection Exhibit A - Reclassified Landlord Claims In re: Sears Holdings Corporation, et al. Case No. 18-23538 (RDD)

Schedule of Reclassified Landlord Claims								
Ref	Affected	Affected	Administrative	Amount Reclassified as	D ( D ) (C )			
# Name of Claimant	Claim No.	Ballot No.	Priority Claim	General Unsecured Claim	Reason for Reclassification			
Coastland Center, L.P.	17111	182353801018488	\$1,148,250.00	\$1,148,250.00	The Claim refers to lease rejection damages, and thus is not an assertible Administrative Expense Claim			
2. Cumberland Mall, LLC	17345	182353801018495	\$1,778,437.00	\$1,778,437.00	The Claim refers to lease rejection damages, and thus is not an assertible Administrative Expense Claim			
3. Steel 1111, LLC	16652	182353801018473	\$2,628,600.00	\$2,628,600.00	This Claim refers to repairs and maintenance expenses for pre- petition conditions; as such, the Claim is not an assertible Administrative Expense Claim			
4. Via Port New York LLC	16407	182353801018140	\$500,411.73	\$500,411.73	The Claim refers to pre-petition expenses, and thus is not an assertible Administrative Expense Claim			

18-23538-shl Doc 7542 Filed 03/31/20 Entered 03/31/20 23:06:22 Main Document Pg 19 of 23

# Exhibit B

**Proposed Order** 

18-23538-shl Doc 7542 Filed 03/31/20 Entered 03/31/20 23:06:22 Main Document Pg 20 of 23

# UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X

In re : Chapter 11

SEARS HOLDINGS CORPORATION, et al., : Case No. 18-23538 (RDD)

Debtors.<sup>1</sup> : (Jointly Administered)

-----X

# ORDER GRANTING DEBTORS' SIXTEENTH OMNIBUS OBJECTION TO CLAIMS (RECLASSIFICATION AS GENERAL UNSECURED CLAIMS)

Upon the *Debtors' Sixteenth Omnibus Objection to Claims (Reclassification as General Unsecured Claims)*, filed March 31, 2020 (the "**Objection**"),<sup>2</sup> of Sears Holdings Corporation and its debtor affiliates, as debtors and debtors in possession in the above-captioned chapter 11 cases (collectively, the "**Debtors**"), pursuant to section 502 under title 11 of the United States Code (the "**Bankruptcy Code**"), and Rule 3007 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedures (the "**Bankruptcy Rules**"), for an order (i) reclassifying the Landlord Claims to General Unsecured Claims, and (ii) granting related relief, all as more fully set forth in the Objection; and the Bankruptcy Court having jurisdiction to consider the Objection and the relief requested therein in accordance with 28 U.S.C. §§ 157(a)-(b) and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are as follows: Sears Holdings Corporation (0798); Kmart Holding Corporation (3116); Kmart Operations LLC (6546); Sears Operations LLC (4331); Sears, Roebuck and Co. (0680); ServiceLive Inc. (6774); SHC Licensed Business LLC (3718); A&E Factory Service, LLC (6695); A&E Home Delivery, LLC (0205); A&E Lawn & Garden, LLC (5028); A&E Signature Service, LLC (0204); FBA Holdings Inc. (6537); Innovel Solutions, Inc. (7180); Kmart Corporation (9500); MaxServ, Inc. (7626); Private Brands, Ltd. (4022); Sears Development Co. (6028); Sears Holdings Management Corporation (2148); Sears Home & Business Franchises, Inc. (6742); Sears Home Improvement Products, Inc. (8591); Sears Insurance Services, L.L.C. (7182); Sears Procurement Services, Inc. (2859); Sears Protection Company (1250); Sears Protection Company (PR) Inc. (4861); Sears Roebuck Acceptance Corp. (0535); SR - Rover de Puerto Rico, LLC (f/k/a Sears, Roebuck de Puerto Rico, Inc.) (3626); SYW Relay LLC (1870); Wally Labs LLC (None); SHC Promotions LLC (9626); Big Beaver of Florida Development, LLC (None); California Builder Appliances, Inc. (6327); Florida Builder Appliances, Inc. (9133); KBL Holding Inc. (1295); KLC, Inc. (0839); Kmart of Michigan, Inc. (1696); Kmart of Washington LLC (8898); Kmart Stores of Illinois LLC (8897); Kmart Stores of Texas LLC (8915); MyGofer LLC (5531); Rover Brands Business Unit, LLC (f/k/a Sears Brands Business Unit Corporation) (4658); Sears Holdings Publishing Company, LLC. (5554); Sears Protection Company (Florida), L.L.C. (4239); SHC Desert Springs, LLC (None); SOE, Inc. (9616); StarWest, LLC (5379); STI Merchandising, Inc. (0188); Troy Coolidge No. 13, LLC (None); BlueLight.com, Inc. (7034); Sears Brands, L.L.C. (4664); Sears Buying Services, Inc. (6533); Kmart.com LLC (9022); Sears Brands Management Corporation (5365); and SRe Holding Corporation (4816). The location of the Debtors' corporate headquarters is 3333 Beverly Road, Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60179.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Capitalized terms not otherwise herein defined shall have the meanings ascribed to such terms in the Objection.

1334 and the *Amended Standing Order of Reference M-431*, dated January 31, 2012 (Preska, C.J.); and consideration of the Objection and the relief requested therein being a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b); and venue being proper before this Bankruptcy Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409; and due and proper notice of the relief requested in the Objection having been provided, and it appearing that no other or further notice need be provided in accordance with the Amended Case Management Order; and such notice having been adequate and appropriate under the circumstances, and it appearing that other or further notice need be provided; and the Bankruptcy Court having held a hearing to consider the relief requested in the Objection on May 14, 2020 (the "Hearing"); and upon the record of the Hearing, and upon all of the proceedings had before the Bankruptcy Court; and the Bankruptcy Court having determined that the legal and factual bases set forth in the Objection establish just cause for the relief granted herein; and is in the best interests of the Debtors, their estates, their creditors, and all parties in interest; and after due deliberation and sufficient cause appearing therefor,

#### IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT

- 1. The Objection is granted.
- 2. Pursuant to section 502 of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rule 3007, each Landlord Claim listed on **Exhibit 1** annexed to this Order are reclassified as General Unsecured Claims (to the extent reflected on **Exhibit 1**).
- 3. Nothing herein shall constitute an admission or finding concerning the amount or validity of any of the Landlord Claims.
- 4. The rights of the Debtors to assert further objections to the Landlord Claims, in whole or in part, and on any basis, are fully preserved.
- 5. This Order has no res judicata, estoppel, or other effect on the validity, allowance, or disallowance of, and all rights to object to or defend on any basis are expressly reserved with respect to any Claim referenced or identified in the Objection that is not listed on **Exhibit 1**.

18-23538-shl Doc 7542 Filed 03/31/20 Entered 03/31/20 23:06:22 Main Document Pg 22 of 23

6. The Debtors, the Debtors' claims and noticing agent, Prime Clerk, and the Clerk of this Bankruptcy Court are authorized to take all actions necessary or appropriate to give effect to this Order.

7. The terms and conditions of this Order are effective immediately upon entry.

Dated:		,	2020
	White Plains,	New	York

HONORABLE ROBERT D. DRAIN UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

### Exhibit 1

**Reclassified Landlord Claims**